Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 26 July 2006

Daily Highlights

- California Independent System Operator says that with demand for power on Tuesday, July 25, expected to exceed Monday's record, it might have to trigger rolling blackouts, making it essential for customers to conserve electricity as a killer heat wave blankets the region. (See item 1)

- Newsday reports CS Stars, a subsidiary of insurance giant Marsh Inc., has lost track of a personal computer containing private data including Social Security numbers of half−million New Yorkers who have made claims to a special workers' compensation fund. (See item 13)

- The Associated Press reports a United passenger jet taking off at O'Hare International Airport came within 300 feet of a cargo plane that had just landed; controller error was to blame. (See item 14)

- Agence France−Presse reports three leading health agencies have set up the first international alert system −− the Global Early Warning and Response System −− to detect animal diseases like bird flu and mad cow disease, which can infect humans. (See item 28)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials; Defense Industrial Base

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture; Food; Water; Public Health

Federal and State: Government; Emergency Services

IT and Cyber: Information Technology and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard

Other: Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons; General; DHS Daily Report Contact Information

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) –

1. *July 25, Reuters* — **California heat wave may trigger blackouts.** With demand for power on Tuesday, July 25, expected to exceed Monday's record, the California grid operator said it might have to trigger rolling blackouts, making it essential for customers to conserve electricity as a killer heat wave blankets the region. The California Independent System Operator (ISO) came close to the breaking point Monday but met the peak demand because customers conserved energy and the system remained intact. The ISO forecast peak demand on Tuesday would reach 50,538 megawatts (MW), breaking Monday's record of 50,270 MW which was 11 percent higher than the peak record set last year. One MW in California can usually power about 700 homes, but the number served drops during record usage. An estimated 100,000 customers were without power early Monday, down from more than one million over the weekend, due to the heat. The California ISO called a "Stage 2" power emergency on Monday, which means utilities may cut or reduce power to businesses that agreed to respond when such an emergency occurs, in return for lower rates.
California ISO Website: http://www.caiso.com/outlook/SystemStatus.html
Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsarticle.aspx?type=domestic
News&storyid=2006−07−25T123855Z_01_N24372009_RTRUKOC_0_US−UT
ILITIES−CALIFORNIA−BLACKOUTS.xml&src=rss&rpc=22

2. *July 25, Reuters* — **Ameren working to restore St. Louis power outages.** Ameren Corp. expects to restore power by late Wednesday, July 26, to most of the 156,000 customers still in the dark in Illinois and Missouri, it said. Service should be fully restored by Thursday at the latest, it added. Most of the outages are located in the St. Louis metropolitan area. On July 19, a storm left about 550,000 in the dark. The company restored service to about 150,000 of those customers by the morning of July 21, but a new storm knocked out another 200,000 that day. The outages included ConocoPhillips' 306,000 barrel−per−day oil refinery in Roxana which provides gasoline and oil products to the area. That plant accounts for about eight percent of the gasoline produced by Midwestern refineries. ConocoPhilips said it hopes to have all the units online next week.
Power outage spreadsheet from the St. Louis Dispatch:
http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/missourist
atenews/story/5719185EC13F7118862571B1005BA883?OpenDocument
Outage Map from Ameren Corp.: http://www.ameren.com/Outage/ADC_RS_StormCenter.asp
Source: http://today.reuters.com/stocks/QuoteCompanyNewsArticle.aspx
?view=CN&storyID=2006−07−25T131550Z_01_N25397772_RTRIDST_0_U
TILITIES−AMEREN−OUTAGES.XML&rpc=66

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *July 25, KNTV−TV (CA)* — **Acid spill shuts down portion of California I−680.** California Highway Patrol said all northbound lanes on Interstate 680 near Walnut Creek were shut down due to a chemical spill Tuesday, July 25. Authorities said a flatbed truck crashed with another vehicle at about 11 a.m. PDT, spilling sulfuric acid across the roadway.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/14027723/

4. *July 25, Register−Guard (OR)* — **Fuel tanker accident shuts down Oregon highway.** A tanker truck rolled over Monday, July 24, on Oregon Highway 126 near Noti, blocking both lanes, spilling 10,000 gallons of gasoline and 1,800 gallons of diesel fuel, and closing the highway until early evening Tuesday. The truck was registered to Reinhard Petroleum, LLC.
Source: http://www.registerguard.com/news/2006/07/25/b1.cr.tankertru ck.0725.p1.php?section=cityregion

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *August 01, National Defense* — **Office of Naval Research turns attention to "irregular" warfare.** More than three years of fighting in Iraq have yet to bring about a major shift in technology spending priorities at the Pentagon, a senior official says. The conflict, which in almost every measure has been a non−traditional "irregular" war, continues to expose equipment gaps that could take several more years to fill. "We need more resources for irregular warfare," says George W. Solhan, deputy chief of naval research and retired U.S. Marine. Compared to how much money the United States spends on new fighter jets, submarines and other big−ticket weapons systems, it is severely "under−investing" in technologies for unconventional warfare, Solhan tells National Defense. Following guidance from the Navy's top command, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) is redirecting funds to non−traditional combat areas, Solhan says. This year, ONR is spending almost $160 million on counterterrorism programs, from a total research budget of $1.6 billion. The allocation of funds could begin to change in fiscal 2008, after ONR completes a top−down review of its programs later this year.
Source: http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2006/August/Of ficeofNavalRe.htm

6. *July 25, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−06−943: DoD Excess Property: Control Breakdowns Present Significant Security Risk and Continuing Waste and Inefficiency (Reports).** The Government Accountability Office's (GAO) previous work found problems in security controls over sensitive excess military equipment that resulted in lost and stolen items, some of which were sold to the public, and significant waste and inefficiency in the Department of Defense (DoD) excess property reutilization program. GAO was asked to perform follow−up investigations to determine whether (1) unauthorized parties could obtain sensitive excess military equipment that requires demilitarization (destruction) when no longer needed by DoD and (2) system and process improvements are adequate to prevent sales of new, unused excess items that DoD continues to buy or that are in demand by the military services. GAO briefed DoD and military service management on the results of its investigations and provided perspectives on ways to resolve the control breakdowns that resulted in public sales of sensitive excess military equipment and new, unused excess items that the military services are continuing to use. In addition, GAO asked DoD to comment on a draft of its report. In its comments, DoD stated that given the time allotted to comment, the department was not able to do a detailed review and has no comments at this time.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06943high.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−06−943

7. *July 24, U.S. Air Force* — **Micro air vehicles: The answer to new military needs.** Air Force Office of Scientific Research officials recently completed a workshop entitled "Biologically Inspired Flight for Micro Air Vehicles" in Denver. Micro air vehicles, or MAVs, are part of a new breed of remotely controlled aircraft that are significantly smaller than currently available remotely controlled aircraft. Most are only about six inches long. Future development of insect−size aircraft is expected in the near future. MAVs are of great interest to the Air Force because of a variety of critical new military needs, chiefly in urban areas. The challenges of this research include exploring ways in which a MAV can successfully operate in an urban or confined environment with the utmost agility.
Source: http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123023850

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *July 25, McKinney Courier−Gazette (TX)* — **Two Texans plead guilty to stealing credit card information.** Samantha Lea Lane, 24, and Ryan Thomas Pitts, 26, of McKinney, TX, pleaded guilty on Monday, July 24, to federal charges of conspiracy to commit fraud by stealing credit card information with portable electronic skimming devices, according to a released statement. Deputy U.S. Attorney John Ratcliffe of Plano said Pitts and Lane conspired to steal credit and debit card information from 47 people between October 2004 and January 2005 from customers at restaurants where they worked as waiters. Ratcliffe said they stole information off customers' cards using a "wedge," a small electronic scanning device that records or copies information from the cards' magnetic strips. The device can be held in the palm of a hand.
Source: http://www.planostar.com/articles/2006/07/25/mckinney_courie r−gazette/news/news05.txt

9. *July 25, Reuters* — **Creditex, CreditTrade agree to merge.** Credit derivatives brokerages Creditex Inc. and CreditTrade Inc. on Tuesday, July 25, said they had agreed to merge to boost their position in the credit derivatives market. The new company, to be known as Creditex Group Inc., is set to handle over $2 trillion of credit derivatives trades this year, they said in a statement.
Source: http://today.reuters.com/investing/financeArticle.aspx?type= governmentFilingsNews&storyID=2006−07−25T121609Z_01_L2590476 6_RTRIDST_0_FINANCIAL−DERIVATIVES−MERGER.XML

10. *July 24, ZDNet News* — **Beware of ransomware, firm warns.** Smaller companies should back up their data if they want to avoid being held to ransom by hackers, a security company has warned. Hackers are using sophisticated ransomware, which is malicious code, to hijack a company's user files, encrypt them and then demand payment in exchange for the decryption key, Kaspersky Labs said on Monday, July 24. The security specialist said that the encryption algorithms used by cybercriminals are becoming increasingly complicated, foxing antivirus companies. "Within a corporation, the IT department normally backs up files. The danger is where attacks are launched at smaller businesses (without IT departments) and individuals," said David Emm, senior technology consultant at Kaspersky UK.
Source: http://news.zdnet.com/2100−1009_22−6097741.html

11. *July 24, FineExtra (UK)* — **National Australia Bank completes chip card pilot.** The National Australia Bank says it has completed its first end−to−end chip card transaction pilot and will now begin processing up to 20,000 chip card transactions a day. Earlier this year the head of the Australian Federal Police Mick Keelty urged banks in the country to speed up the introduction of chip and PIN technology after warning that the continuing use of magnetic strip cards is leaving customers vulnerable to fraud. More recently Australia's House of Representatives economics committee has called for the introduction of chip and PIN technology to replace the current signature−based card payment system.
Source: http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15627

12. *July 24, Websense Security Labs* — **Multiple Phishing Alert: Pacific Capital Bancorp, VP−ASP Shopping Cart, IBEW Plus Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of several new phishing attacks. The first targets customers of Pacific Capital Bancorp. Users receive a spoofed e−mail message, which claims that there is an online survey with a $20 reward at completion. Users are instructed to click on a link contained in the e−mail to log in to their account. They are then taken to a phishing site that requests account details. Another attack targets customers of VP−ASP Shopping Cart. Users receive a spoofed e−mail message, which claims there have been multiple attempts to log on to their account from a foreign IP address. Users are directed to verify their identity by logging on to their account. The message provides a link to a phishing Website. Another attack targets customers of IBEW Plus Credit Union. Users receive a spoofed e−mail message, which claims that their account information needs to be checked against the bank database. Users are instructed to click on a link contained in the e−mail to log into their account. The link takes users to a phishing site that requests their login ID, password, card number and ATM PIN number.
Screenshots: http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertI D=560
http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertI D=559
http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertI D=558
Source: http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/

13. *July 21, Newsday (NY)* — **Software firm loses computer loaded with personal details of about 500,000 in New York.** More than a half−million New Yorkers who have made claims to a special workers' compensation fund have been notified that a Chicago−based claims−management software firm has lost track of a personal computer containing their private data, including Social Security numbers. The company, CS Stars, a subsidiary of insurance giant Marsh Inc., lost track of the computer while installing claims−management software for the Special Funds Conservation Committee. The company has called in the FBI to investigate the May 9 disappearance of the computer, and in a letter dated Tuesday, July 18, promised New Yorkers whose data were lost that it would provide free credit monitoring for the next year to nip any possible identity theft in the bud, and $25,000 in identity−theft insurance.
Source: http://www.newsday.com/ny−uscomp0722,0,4389008.story?coll=ny −top−headlines

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

14. *July 25, Associated Press* — **United flight nearly hits cargo plane.** A passenger jet taking off at O'Hare International Airport came within 300 feet of a cargo plane that had just landed,

federal aviation officials said. United Airlines Flight 1015 was able to fly over the Boeing 747 cargo plane, which was on an intersecting runway about 10 p.m. Sunday, July 23, and no injuries were reported, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said in a written statement. Controller error was to blame, the FAA statement said. Both the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the incident, known as a runway incursion. The United flight was carrying 120 passengers and five crewmembers to Denver, said Brandon Borrman, a spokesperson for the Elk Grove Village, IL–based carrier. So far this year, O'Hare, the nation's busiest airport, has had five reported runway incursions amid about 540,000 total flights, the FAA said. Last year, it had seven.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006–07–25–united–nea r–hit_x.htm

15. *July 25, Boston Globe* — **More loose bolts found in Boston tunnel.** New problems were discovered in the Ted Williams Tunnel on Monday, July 24, when state inspectors found three loose bolts holding a ceiling panel over one westbound lane. One of the bolts had pulled out of the ceiling by half an inch. The left–hand lane in the eastern–most part of the tunnel was closed as a precaution, though westbound traffic was still allowed to go as far as the South Boston exit. In addition, officials said that the Williams tunnel would be subject to temporary closure in the coming weeks, as engineers test the strength of the bolt–and–epoxy ceiling fixtures in the tunnel after similar fasteners gave way in a section of the Interstate 90 Connector on July 10. Officials have not determined when or for how long the tunnel –– currently open to all westbound traffic and airport buses eastbound –– would be closed. State transportation officials also backed off previous estimates for reopening the I–90 connector, saying the engineering challenges of designing a reinforced support system for the tunnel's ceiling will require the vital downtown thoroughfare to remain closed indefinitely. Both developments are certain to add to the traffic woes faced by commuters.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/traffic/bigdig/articles/2006/07/2 5/three_more_loose_bolts_in_tunnel/

16. *July 25, Associated Press* — **Air Greenland to launch first U.S. route.** Air Greenland, the Arctic island's main airline, said Monday, July 24, it would open a route to Baltimore, MD, its first to the United States. The airline, owned by the Greenland government will start flying once a week beginning in May 2007 to the Baltimore–Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. A Boeing 757 will fly the route during the May–September season, Per Karlsmose, sales manager with Air Greenland, said. It will take off from the Arctic island's international airport in Kangerlussuaq, a former U.S. Air Force base on Greenland's west coast.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006–07–24–usa–greenl and_x.htm

17. *July 25, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–06–915T: Next Generation Air Transportation System: Preliminary Analysis of Progress and Challenges Associated with the Transformation of the National Airspace System (Testimony).** The health of our nation's air transportation system is critical to our citizens and economy. However, the current approach to managing air transportation is becoming increasingly inefficient and operationally obsolete. In 2003, Congress created the Joint Planning and Development Office (JPDO) to plan for and coordinate, with federal and nonfederal stakeholders, a transformation from the current air traffic control (ATC) system to the "next generation air transportation system" (NGATS). Housed within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), JPDO has seven partner agencies that make up JPDO's senior policy committee: the Departments of Transportation, Commerce,

Defense, and Homeland Security; FAA; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. This testimony, which provides preliminary results from the Government Accountability Office'a (GAO) ongoing work on JPDO, provides information on (1) the status of JPDO's efforts to plan for NGATS, (2) the key challenges facing JPDO as it moves forward with its planning efforts, and (3) the key challenges facing FAA as it implements the transformation while continuing its current operations. The statement is based on GAO's analysis of JPDO documents, interviews, and the views of a panel of experts, as well as on past GAO work.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06915thigh.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi–bin/getrpt?GAO–06–915T

18. *July 25, Associated Press* — **Crews rescue stranded sailors from listing ship off Alaska.** Helicopters hoisted 23 crewmembers from a listing cargo ship to safety overnight, ending a daylong rescue effort as 10–foot waves slapped the ship's tilting deck hundreds of miles off Alaska's Aleutian Islands. Tuesday, July 25,with the crew safe on Adak Island, the Coast Guard and the ship operators turned their attention to trying to salvage the massive car carrier. The 654–foot Cougar Ace was floating on its side, unattended until a Coast Guard cutter arrived later in the day to monitor it, said Petty Officer Richard Reichenbach. The Cougar Ace had been carrying cars from Japan to Canada when it began tilting to its port side late Sunday night. The crew sent out an SOS, but the nearest Coast Guard ship was a day's journey away. By the time a Coast Guard aircraft arrived and was able to drop three life rafts for the crew Monday morning, the ship was at an 80–degree angle, nearly on its side, officials said. In a daring rescue, the crewmembers, who had donned survival suits aboard their troubled ship, were hoisted Monday night into two National Guard Pave Hawk helicopters and a Coast Guard helicopter, then flown 230 miles north to Adak Island.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006–07–24–listing–ship_x.htm

19. *July 24, USA TODAY* — **United to see second quarter profit, its first in six years.** Five months after emerging from bankruptcy court protection, United Airlines said Monday, July 24, that it will post its first second quarter profit in six years. United becomes the fourth major U.S. airline in recent days to post a second–quarter profit despite jet fuel prices that are at all–time highs. American, Continental, and Southwest airlines all have announced profitable second quarters. United is benefiting from fuller planes and higher fares. In June, United's planes were a record 88 percent full on average, meaning many planes were completely full or even oversold. During its three–year bankruptcy reorganization, United cut $7 billion in labor, aircraft and other costs from its annual spending. It shed $8 billion in debt, 20,000 employees and 100 jets. Its planes are full now because there are fewer of them. United and most other airlines have trimmed their fleets to cut costs and become more efficient after years of heavy losses. Because of higher fuel prices and scarcer seats, fares are up sharply.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006–07–24–united–usa t_x.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *July 25, Atlanta Business Chronicle* — **UPS profit up in second quarter.** United Parcel Service Inc.'s profit rose 7.6 percent in the second quarter, carried in part by global small

package volume growth. The Atlanta–based package delivery company had net income of $1.06 billion on $11.7 billion in revenue in the second quarter, compared with net income of $986 million on $10.2 billion in revenue in the second quarter of 2005. During the second quarter, UPS reported a more than $1 billion expansion project at Louisville International Airport to increase the UPS Worldport's size by 1.1 million square feet to 5.1 million square feet –– the equivalent of more than 113 football fields. Work will begin later this year and be completed by 2010. The expansion is expected to create more than 5,000 jobs.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/060725/1320494.html?.v=1

21. *July 24, Government Computer News* — **System designed for safety reporting delivers a bonus: asset management.** When the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) launched an initiative to better maintain safety records for its industrial vehicles, the goal was modest: reduce the agency's reporting burden. Over a year later, the Powered Industrial Vehicle Management System has produced a significant number of benefits not only automating the reporting process but improving safety and helping USPS better manage its industrial fleet. "This really helps facilitate the safer environment, the mechanics, and the documentation," said Victoria Stephen, manager of the material handling deployment within the USPS' Engineering division. USPS started the program essentially as a pilot in January 2005, and has since installed the system in 56 facilities. The system consists of small vehicle–asset communicators installed on each industrial vehicle –– such as forklifts and pallet movers –– at the facility. Users must log into the communicator before starting the vehicle, ensuring that only certified operators can use the machine. This data is sent via radio frequency identification to several "gateways" located throughout a mailing facility and stored in a central database. Before USPS implemented the system, it had no idea how many industrial vehicles it owned or leased, where they were or what condition they were in, Stephen said.
Source: http://www.gcn.com/print/25_21/41423–1.html

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Agriculture Sector

22. *July 25, USAgNet* — **New program addresses shortage of veterinarians.** Officials at Iowa State University and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln have approved an agreement that will bring the nation's two leading livestock producing states together in addressing the region's increasing need for veterinarians. The new cooperative Agreement in Veterinary Medical Education was recently approved by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, and signed by Iowa State University President Gregory Geoffroy and University of Nebraska–Lincoln Chancellor Harvey Perlman. Each year up to 25 students from Nebraska will enter a four–year study of veterinary medicine and attend the first two years of the program on the UNL campus. The cooperative program will be part of the university's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the Departments of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences and Animal Science. Students will complete their final two years and receive their doctor of veterinary medicine degrees at the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine. Nebraska students will pay ISU professional school resident tuition all four years. Nebraska will pay the difference between resident and non–resident tuition for the final two years.
Source: http://www.usagnet.com/story–national.cfm?Id=1442&yr=2006

23. *July 24, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Final chronic wasting disease rule issued.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is finalizing a rule amending its regulations regarding the control and eradication of communicable diseases of livestock to establish a chronic wasting disease (CWD) herd certification program for cervids. This action provides a necessary and important tool in APHIS' efforts to eliminate CWD from farmed and captive deer, elk and moose populations. The final rule standardizes certification requirements that currently vary from state to state. To become certified, cervid herd owners must follow program requirements for animal identification, disease testing, herd management and fencing. Herds that participate in the program for five years with no evidence of CWD may be granted certified status. The final rule also provides regulations for the interstate movement of cervids. In order to reduce the spread of CWD, only animals from herds participating in the program will be allowed to move interstate. Owners of herds may enroll in a state program equivalent to the federal program, or may enroll directly in the federal program if no state program exists.
CWD information: http://www.cwd–info.org/
Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/07/chronc_wa sting_final_vs.shtml

24. *July 24, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Soybean rust found in Georgia.** Georgia officials reported Monday, July 24, a soybean rust find on soybeans in Brooks County. The two previous finds in this county have been on kudzu. Currently rust has only been found on this year's soybeans in four different counties in three states(AL,FL,GA) the rest of the finds have been on kudzu. A total of 25 counties have reported rust this year and include five in Alabama, 12 in Florida, five in Georgia, two in Louisiana, and one in Texas. Spore trapping continues throughout the U.S. using both active and passive traps.
Source: http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=888

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Food Sector

25. *July 25, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Proposal to allow six fruits from Thailand into the U.S.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to allow, under certain conditions, the importation of litchi, longan, mango, mangosteen, pineapple and rambutan from Thailand into the U.S. To ensure that plant pests do not enter the U.S. through the importation of these commodities, APHIS would require that the fruit be grown in production areas registered with and monitored by the national plant protection organization of Thailand, treated with irradiation at specified doses and subjected to inspection. The fruit would also have to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration stating that the fruit was irradiated in Thailand. In the case of litchi, the declaration would also state that the fruit was inspected and found to be free of Peronophythora litchi, a fungal pest.
Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/07/thailand_six_fruits_ppq.shtml

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Water Sector

26. *July 24, KATC (LA)* — **New Orleans facing epidemic of water system leaks.** With residents fighting long periods of low water pressure that pose fire hazards, members of the city water system's governing board say New Orleans will not recover from Hurricane Katrina if underground pipes are not quickly repaired. The Sewerage and Water Board wants system administrators to better prioritize repair projects. Besides compromising fire protection, low water pressure has caused businesses and government offices to shut down unexpectedly. One condominium project is faced with a $1,300 daily bill for fire watches because pressure is too weak to get water to sprinklers on upper floors. The water agency's executive director, Marcia St. Martin, said workers continue to discover new problems that likely will swell damage estimates to $500 million. Of 388 underground detectors installed in the French Quarter, Central Business District, and Warehouse District, 276 found leaks in water distribution pipes, officials said. Officials said cracks may be more prevalent in other areas that were hit by post−storm flooding.
Source: http://www.katc.com/Global/story.asp?S=5176315

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Public Health Sector

27. *July 25, Agence France−Presse* — **Thailand confirms bird flu outbreak in poultry.** Thailand has confirmed that the H5N1 bird flu virus has been found in chickens in a northern province, in the country's first outbreak of the disease in eight months. "I can confirm that it's H5N1," Deputy Agriculture Minister Charan Trinvuthipong told Agence France−Presse. The agriculture authorities were already on high alert, he said, because the disease tends to spread in Thailand during the month of July. "We have to be very vigilant in July but it's occurred only in one place," he said. Government spokesperson Surapong Suebwonglee told reporters that the small outbreak occurred in Pichit province on a farm that had not registered its poultry operations. Pichit has suffered outbreaks before, and officials said safety precautions are already in place. Some 260 chickens had been slaughtered in the area and the movement of poultry was banned within a 10−kilometer radius. Fourteen people have died in Thailand after being infected with the H5N1 virus.
Source: http://www.forbes.com/home/feeds/afx/2006/07/25/afx2901426.h tml

28. *July 25, Agence France−Presse* — **Global alert system set up for animal−human diseases.** Three leading agencies have set up the first international alert system to detect animal diseases like bird flu and mad cow disease which can infect humans. The move by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World animal health agency (OIE) follows an acknowledgement of "weaknesses" in current detection, response and control measures, the WHO said. "History shows us that the earlier we can detect a zoonosis, the earlier we can take action to reduce the threats to people," said Susanne Weber−Mosdorf, a WHO assistant director−general. The Global Early Warning and Response System is the first attempt to coordinate the tracking, verification and alert mechanisms of the three agencies. The three agencies will share information and carry out joint field missions to assess and control outbreaks in animals and humans.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060725/hl_afp/healthanimalaler twhooiefao_060725142000

29. *July 25, Chicago Tribune* — **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention investigating new ailment.** Thousands of victims concentrated in Texas, California, and Florida claim to be afflicted by a debilitating malady, for which there is no known cause and no certain cure. But whether the symptoms constitute a frightening new disease suddenly surfacing across the nation, or a case of mass hysteria abetted by Internet message boards and local TV news reports, is a question that experts at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are trying to answer. Depending on the CDC's conclusions, the ailment known as Morgellons disease might soon displace Ebola and bird flu as the world's newest nightmare disease. But unlike those illnesses, which are still far from U.S. shores, Morgellons cases have already been reported in every state, as well as in Europe, Japan, Australia and other countries. "We don't know yet what it is, so our first aim is to try to characterize it scientifically," said Dan Rutz, a CDC spokesperson. "There's a concern that there's an infectious process going on. It would be very disturbing from a public health standpoint if that turns out to be case. We don't have any evidence to support that, but we are approaching this with an open mind."
Morgellons disease information: http://www.healthsciences.okstate.edu/morgellons/index.cfm
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi−060725015 8jul25,1,4472509.story?coll=chi−newsnationworld−hed

30. *July 24, Palm Beach Post (FL)* — **West Nile finds no oasis in Florida.** Five years after the first Florida case, the West Nile epidemic is practically a no−show. In Palm Beach County, not a single person has been treated in almost four years. Martin and St. Lucie counties never have had a human case. The Palm Beach County Health Department keeps flocks of sentinel chickens to monitor mosquito−spread disease. West Nile antibodies haven't shown up in chicken blood since 2004. It has killed 11 Floridians since 2001. The last reported death was in 2004, a 64−year−old Miami−Dade County man. In Colorado, the nation's hardest−hit state, 69 have died since 2002. "We were preparing for a bigger presence of the virus as a human health problem," said Carina Blackmore, the Florida Department of Health's veterinarian. West Nile hasn't been around long enough to establish a pattern. The disease has been in the U.S. for less than eight years. In Florida, another bird−mosquito disease, St. Louis encephalitis, seems to peak in 13−year cycles, said Gary Goode, an entomologist with Palm Beach County Mosquito Control. It's entirely possible that mosquitoes infected with the West Nile virus were wiped out by the spate of hurricanes and will resurface later, Goode said.
Source: http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/15109929.htm

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.
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Emergency Services Sector

31. *July 24, New York Times* — **U.S. government plans overhaul in disaster aid.** The Department of Homeland Security is revamping several of its core disaster relief programs, enacting changes that will include sharply cutting emergency cash assistance for victims of major disasters, and more carefully controlling access to free hotel rooms. Immediate emergency aid would not exceed $500 under the new rules, instead of the $2,000 per family previously allowed. And it would be handed out only after identities and addresses were checked. Such precautions were not taken consistently last year after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, an oversight auditors said led to fraud and abuse of up to $1.4 billion. Separately, federal officials are working with Louisiana leaders to complete an evacuation plan for the southeastern part of the state that would involve a level of federal deployment greater than previously provided in advance of a hurricane or natural disaster. The goal is to help provide emergency transportation for as many as 96,000 people who do not have vehicles.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/07/24/washington/24fema.html?hp&
ex=1153713600&en=d638029e0fd7b7b4&ei=5094&partner=homepage

32. *July 24, Government Executive* — **FEMA outsources identity verification for disaster assistance.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) decided to outsource the process of verifying disaster assistance applicants' identities, after last year's debit card handout in the wake of Hurricane Katrina allowed fraudulent and wasteful purchases, officials said Monday, July 24. In connection with a Monday announcement that the agency will reduce each household's maximum share of government emergency funds, FEMA Director R. David Paulison, said the agency has opted to contract out identity verification. He acknowledged that the agency was not prepared to defend its fund against fraud last year. "FEMA did not have a system in place" to verify people's identities, Paulison said. David Garratt, deputy director of FEMA's recovery division, said hurricane relief registration continues to improve. The agency was only capable of handling about 100,000 evacuee claims after Hurricane Katrina, but it may be able to process twice that number this year, he said. FEMA also is doing away with the debit cards it distributed last year, which received a great deal of publicity after the funds were used for nonessential items –– including tabs at gentlemen's clubs, breast implants and pornography.
Source: http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0706/072406j1.htm

33. *July 24, Staten Island Advance (NY)* — **First responders hold Hazmat drill on Staten Island.** On Sunday, July 23, nearly 200 first responders from the New York City Fire, Police, Health and Environmental Protection departments joined ranks with Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and U.S. Postal Service investigators during a Hazmat disaster drill at the Manor Road Post Office in Staten Island, NY. "Everything went slightly better than expected," said Al Weissman, postal inspector and the public information officer for the New York State region, who characterized the drill as broad enough to prepare for the discovery of any number of hazardous materials. "Anthrax is only one potential hazard or reason to worry." A logistical issue taken into consideration on Staten Island was the small size of Manor Road, which would have been clogged with traffic on a typical day. "It sounds simple to say, 'We're here, they're here,' but it's very difficult to organize," said Weissman, adding the numerous agencies met several times to coordinate before staging the practice. "Many potential obstacles could hamper a successful response to an emergency."
Source: http://www.silive.com/news/advance/index.ssf?/base/news/1153
747096232270.xml&coll=1

34. *July 24, Boston Globe* — **New emergency call system to be tested as soon as 2008.** Picture a highway crash: a vehicle flips over in the center lane. Ten cars plow into the twisted wreck. Panicked witnesses dial 911. They shoot video of the scene with their cell phones. Drivers too distraught to speak text message the call center. A vehicle with a built−in security system automatically dials 911 after the air bags are deployed. It forwards the driver's health history, letting police know he has had two heart attacks before. It's not a far−off scenario with the development of Next Generation 911 or NG911 for short, a new emergency call system run via Internet protocol that will allow rescuers to plug and play all of the latest communications technologies. A consortium funded with a $570,000 grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, part of the Department of Commerce, is conducting trials at call centers in Virginia and Texas, routing voice−over−Internet protocol (VoIP), mobile video, and text messages to 911 responders. The group, which includes Columbia University, Texas A&M University, and the National Emergency Number Association, hopes to run a full−scale test in 2008, using real emergency calls.
Source: http://www.boston.com/business/technology/articles/2006/07/2 4/future_911/

35. *July 23, Reporter (CA)* — **Report: Communication, visibility key to helping California city avoid flood fiasco.** The purchase of swift water rescue equipment, improved communications and greater visibility of emergency crews are key to helping Vacaville, CA, avoid a future flood fiasco, a city report has found. The 30−page report lauded the city's response to the New Year's Eve flood that dumped five inches of rain in several hours and left hundreds of people homeless. Coordination of police, fire and public works "provided management of the incident in a coordinated and effective way," the report noted. It also pointed out that activation of the emergency operations center was effective and efficient. The report concedes that the visibility of city workers in the hours and days after the flood was an issue. "In future incidents of this type, once the initial post−flood drive−by assessment is made by police and fire units, public safety units will return to patrol the most heavily affected areas," it reads. Other improvements the city plans to make center around communication, making better use of its Website, local government cable TV channel and local radio station to get warnings out to residents. A new feature on the city's Website will allow residents to monitor creek levels from home.
Report: http://cityofvacaville.com/__documents/forms_reports/FloodAc tionReport.pdf
Source: http://thereporter.com/news/ci_4086119

36. *July 23, Marine Forces Reserve* — **Reserve Marines train with Los Angeles first responders.** In the wake of several natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, first responders realized the importance of utilizing all available local resources in order to protect the general public in the best possible manner. Taking the initiative, Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 46 (MAG−46) and various subordinate units teamed up with first responders from Los Angeles County, CA, to train and decide how best to employ local Marine Corps assets in the case of a natural or man−made disaster. The reserve Marines used their Annual Training to conduct integrated training with professional first responders from the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments. Due to the location of the San Andreas Fault and likelihood of a real large−scale earthquake, the training scenario was a catastrophic 8.0 earthquake. Some of the capabilities the Marines of MAG−46 could bring to the table in a real life natural disaster are the heavy lift capabilities of the CH−53 Super Stallion, medical evacuation via various air transport options, refueling of military and civilian aircraft and fire equipment, water purification reverse osmosis

capabilities, crowd control, search and rescue operations and other humanitarian efforts.
Source: http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/0/D6CF10F96657367
4852571B50060DD69?opendocument

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

37. *July 25, VNUNet* — **Apple's OS X security vulnerabilities on the rise.** The number of security vulnerabilities in Apple's OS X operating system has increased compared to last year. A study by security firm Kaspersky Lab identified a total of 60 security vulnerabilities in the first half of 2006, compared to 51 during the same period in 2005. Vulnerabilities affecting the core operating system had decreased, however, down from 38 last year to 24 this year.
To view report: http://www.viruslist.com/en/analysis?pubid=191968025
Source: http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2160994/security−vulnerabi lities−rise

38. *July 24, CNET News* — **Study: Net telephony quality worsening.** While it's no secret that Net phone services don't offer the same call quality as traditional phones, a new study suggests that the quality of voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) is actually getting worse. Brix Networks, a company that develops monitoring tools for service providers, analyzed data it gathered from a free Website it created two years ago called TestYourVoip.com. The site allows consumers to test the quality of their VoIP services. In its study, published Monday, July 24, the company discovered that call quality has declined by about 5 percent in the past 18 months. With almost one million VoIP connections tested through its Website, Brix said that about 20 percent of all calls had unacceptable quality. This is up from about 15 percent of calls made about a year ago.
TestYourVoIP Website: http://testyourvoip.com/
Brix Networks' study: http://www.brixnet.com/news_and_events/pressRelease.aspx?new s_item_id=858
Source: http://news.com.com/Study+Net+telephony+quality+worsening/21 00−7352_3−6097912.html?tag=nefd.top

39. *July 24, CNET News* — **Symantec continues Vista bug hunt.** In a second report on Vista, Symantec takes on a security feature called User Account Control, in the operating system. The feature runs a Vista PC with fewer user privileges to prevent malicious code from being able to do as much damage as on a PC running in administrator mode, a typical setting on Windows XP. "We discovered a number of implementation flaws that continued to allow a full machine compromise to occur," Matthew Conover, principal security researcher at Symantec, wrote in the report titled "Attacks against Windows Vista's Security Model." The report was made available to Symantec customers last week and is scheduled for public release sometime before Vista ships, a Symantec representative said Monday, July 24. The report describes how an attacker could commandeer a Vista PC with Internet Explorer 7, the reinforced version of Microsoft's Web browser.
Source: http://news.com.com/Symantec+continues+Vista+bug+hunt/2100−1 002_3−6097976.html

40. *July 24, Tech Web* — **Office exploits reveal new direction in attack strategies.** The recent

run of publicized vulnerabilities in Microsoft Office and subsequent threats from malicious documents demonstrate that attackers are automating their hunt for exploits and turning toward targeting people, not systems, a security researcher said Monday, July 24. The three months of Office vulnerabilities –– which started in May with Word, then spread in June and July to Excel and PowerPoint, respectively –– demonstrate a shift in tactics, said Alfred Huger, senior director of engineering with Symantec's security response group. "They're not looking for hosts, but for usernames and e–mail addresses," he said. "It's difficult to get a specific person to a Website, so when attackers target a company and aim their attacks, which is what they're doing, they're turning to client side applications like the ones in Office."
Source: http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/191000411;jsessionid=X5 10XUYD4OJJWQSNDLPSKHSCJUNN2JVN

41. *July 18, CNET News* — **Microsoft takes on Cisco with Nortel alliance.** Microsoft's announcement Tuesday, July 18, that it has formed a strategic partnership with Nortel Networks to jointly develop and sell Internet–based telephony and communications services is a clear indication the software powerhouse plans to go toe–to–toe with Cisco Systems, the leader in corporate communications. Cisco and Microsoft are increasingly crossing paths as they venture into new sectors such as Internet Protocol (IP) communications. While the companies have said they'll cooperate to make sure their solutions work with each other's products, Microsoft's announcement that it will work closely with Cisco competitor Nortel to develop, market and sell communications services is a strong signal that the companies will be competing directly as they try to persuade large businesses to switch their old phone networks to ones based on IP.
Source: http://news.com.com/Microsoft+takes+on+Cisco+with+Nortel+all iance/2100–1033_3–6095565.html?tag=nefd.hicomp

Internet Alert Dashboard

Install anti virus software, and keep its virus signature files up to date.

Limit user privileges to no administrator rights.

Save and scan any attachments before opening them.

US−CERT strongly encourages users not to open unfamiliar or unexpected email attachments, even if sent by a known and trusted source. Users may wish to read Cyber Security Tip ST04−010 for more information on working with email attachments. http://www.us−cert.gov/cas/tips/ST04−010.html

US−CERT will continue to update current activity as more information becomes available.

PHISHING SCAMS

US−CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. US−CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US−CERT. http://www.us−cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html

Non−federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win−rpc), 4672 (eMule), 6346 (gnutella−svc), 6999 (iatp−normalpri), 38566 (−−−), 445 (microsoft−ds), 80 (www), 54856 (−−−), 113 (auth), 135 (epmap)
	Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us−cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it−isac.org/.

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

42. *July 25, WUSA TV (DC)* — **Effort to boost National Mall safety.** Washington, DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton has stepped up her fight to keep tourists safe on the National Mall, in the increased crime prevention efforts downtown. Norton is especially concerned about protecting the public as well as the image of the nation's capital. The Park Police has a limited staff, but after 9/11, the U.S. Capitol Police force was increased. Norton wants to borrow from Capitol Police to help Park Police patrol the National Mall at night. Del. Norton commented that, "All I know is when six police are here at night and you have a second round of muggings,

I know we need more than that." There is a $4.3 million budget increase for Park Police that could supply as many as 35 additional officers. Most of them would go to the District. Source: http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=50979

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282−9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us−cert.gov.

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